

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SY-10 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20

RSC-01 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 *SAE-00 DODE-00 USIA-15

NIC-01 DRC-01 /118 W

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R 230745Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 449

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

S E C R E T COLOMBO 241

SNEO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, CE

SUBJ: ALLEGATIONS OF COUP PLOTTING

REF: COLOMBO 130

1. SRI LANKA OPPOSITION LEADER 'R. JAYEWARDENE'S ACCUSATIONS OF LEFTIST PLOTTING AGAINST MRS BANDARVAIKE (REFTEL) DOMINATED NEWSPAPERS HERE DURING PAST WEEK. PROCEDURAL WRANGLE HAS DEVELOPED BETWEEN JAYEWARDENE AND PRIME MINISTER OVER HOW TO INVESTIGATE CHARGES. J.ROB HAS TOLD PRIME MINISTER IN SEVERAL LETTER AND PRESS STATEMENTS DURING PAST FEW DAYS THAT HE WILL RELEASE EVIDENCE ONLY TO SELECT COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL STATE ASSEMBLY AND NOT TO POLICE, APPARENTLY TO PROTECT HIS INFORMANT AND TO AVOID LIBEL. CHARGES. THIS DEMAND HAS BEEN VIGOROUSLY RESISTED BY MRS BANDARANAIKE, WHO SUGGESTED POLICE INVESTIGATION JOINTLY SUPERVISED BY J.R. AND ONE OF HER MINISTERS TO DETERMINE WHETHER CAUSE FOR FURTHER ACTION EXISTS. PRIMIN SAYS SHE QUESTIONS JAYEWARDENE'S VERACITY BECAUSE OF UN-SUBSTANTIATED CHARGES HE MADE ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS IN EARLIER YEARS.

2. UNITED NATIONAL PARTY (UNP) SOURCES CLAIM THAT EARLIER

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TALK OF "COUP" IS MISNOMER AND THAT J.R. ACTUALLY MEANT

"INFILTRATION" OF UNITED FRONT GOVT (UFG) BY EXTREMISTS (JANAVEGAYA GROUP) WITH "SEIZURE OF POWER" IN MIND. THESE SOURCES PREDICT JAYEWARDENE WILL REVELA FURTHER DETAILS OF UNSPECIFIED WRONGDOING TO KEEP ISSUE ALIVE AND THEY SAY HE IS SATISFIED THAT HE IS ALERTING COUNTRY TO READL DESIGNS OF ULTRA-LZVT. SEVERAL BUNP SOURCES HAVE TOLD US THAT IN FRAMING THESE CHARGES J.R. HAS BEEN IN LIAISON WITH MAITHRIPALAR SENANAYAKE, A LEADER OF RIGHT-WING IN PRIME MINISTERS SRI LANKA FREEDOM PARTY WHO IS SAID TO BE EQUALLY FEARFUL OF JANAVEGAYA GROUPS INFLUENCE.

3. COMMENT: WHILE THESE SUBTLETIES MAY SATISFY PARTY LOYALISTS, WHO ONLY NOW ARE BEING INFORMED OF J.R'S STRATEGY, PUBLIC OPINION REMAINS SOMEWHAT PUZZLED AND CONFUSED BY JAYEWARDENES TACTICS. LEFT-WING OF URG MAY BE EQUALLY PUZZLED AS TO J.R'S OBJECTIVES. PRIME MINISTERS DAUGHTER, SUNZLHRA RUPASINGHE, WHOSE HUSBAND EDITS JANAVEGAYA NEZBPAPER, APPROACHED LBDG-TIME USIS CEYLONSE EMPLOYEE FOR ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING, FROM UNP INNER CIRCLES, INFO AS TO WHY J.R. HAD MADE COUP CHARGES AND NATURE OF HIS EVIDENCE. THIS REQUEST WAS TURNED ASIDE.
VAN HOLLEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, PLOTS, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974COLOMB00241
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: COLOMBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740122/aaaaauqu.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: COLOMBO 130
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <26 DEC 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ALLEGATIONS OF COUP PLOTTING
TAGS: PINS, PINT, CE, (JAYEWARDENE, J R)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005